

US Oil Recovery Superfund Site

Pasadena, Harris County, Texas

EPA Region 6

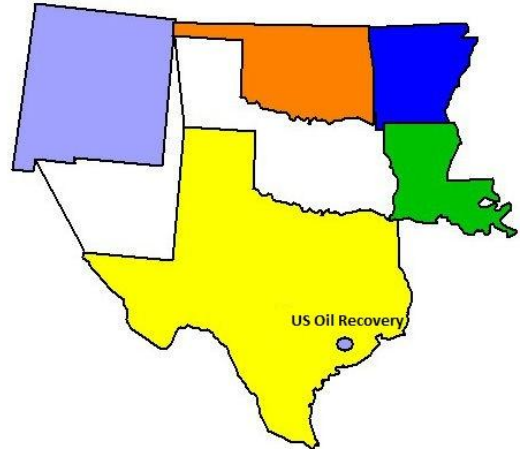
EPA ID: TXN000607093

Site ID: A6X7

Congressional District: 29

Contact: Raji Josiam - 214.665.8529

Updated: November 2013



Background

The US Oil Recovery (USOR) Site is located at 400 N. Richey Street and 200 N. Richey Street in Pasadena, Texas, north of Highway 225 (the Site). US Oil Recovery and its affiliate MCC Recycling (MCC) previously conducted operations at the Site. The Site received municipal and industrial Class I and Class II wastewater, characteristically hazardous waste, used oil and oily sludges, and municipal solid waste. The MCC facility was a former sewage treatment plant, owned by the City of Pasadena from approximately 1945 till it was it was acquired by USOR in January 2009 and began operations as MCC.

Wastes onsite includes a variety of volatile organics, metals, and mercury. Arsenic, barium, cobalt, manganese, mercury, silver, and vanadium have been released into the surface water and into sediments within Vince Bayou. This contamination threatens fishing as well as the wetlands.

In an initial response action, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took steps to contain off-site migration, mitigate the threat to the public and to Vince Bayou, and stabilize the Site in July 2010, November 2010, and January 2011. As part of those efforts, more than 800,000 gallons of non- hazardous oily liquid waste were transported off-site. Hazardous and non-hazardous sludges open to the elements and contaminating storm water were removed and also disposed off-site.

Pursuant to an Administrative Order on Consent, dated August 25, 2011, EPA has continued to protect the public health, welfare and the environment, including Vince Bayou, by overseeing subsequent Site stabilization activities performed by some of the Potentially Responsible Parties (known as the "PRP Group"). PRP Group stabilization activities have included Site security and video monitoring, regular inspections of freeboard in secondary containment areas and truck bays, and pump down/removal of liquids as necessary to prevent releases from those areas. The PRP Group also obtained the Court appointment of a Receiver with legal custody and control over the Site. Part of the Receiver's role is to also assist the Group in its performance of the EPA-required actions at the Site.

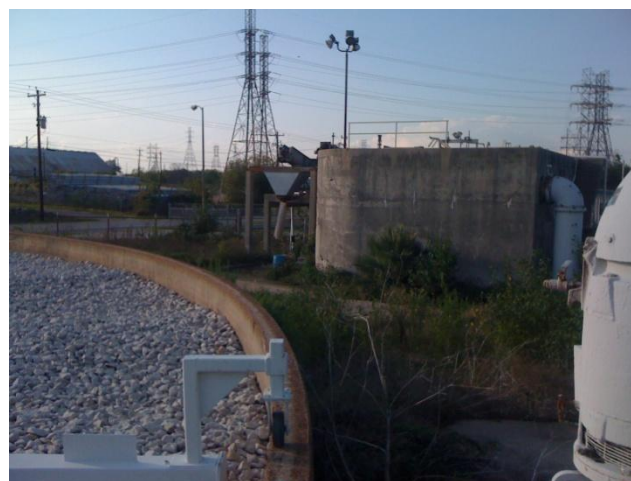
Site Photos



400 N. Richey and 200 N. Richey Aerial View



400 N. Richey



200 N. Richey

Current Status

As part of the site stabilization efforts the PRP Group has removed more than approximately 422,054 gallons of liquid from the bioreactor and approximately 536,526 gallons of liquid from north and south tank farms and sump. 65,027 gallons of water have been removed from the containment pond. In addition 185 Roll-off Boxes have been unloaded and approximately 1,400 tons of solids, 66,431 gallons of liquid, and 9,364 gallons of wash water from these have been removed from the site. Approximately 14,000 gallons of liquid from leaking frac tanks have also been removed from the site. Currently the PRP group's contractors conduct routine Bi-Weekly Site Monitoring and routinely address any technical issues that come up that include maintaining adequate freeboard, controlling leaks, etc. The PRP Group's contractors mobilized on-Site the week of August 12, 2013 and are currently addressing the removal of sludges from the roll-off containers and bioreactor. The PRP Group will continue on-going stabilization efforts under EPA oversight as needed to protect the public and Vince Bayou. Additional removal actions are anticipated to be performed in 2013 to address other waste materials present at the Site.

EPA has sent General Notice letters notifying parties of their potential liability for response efforts at the Site and has also sent Information Request letters (some in combination with the General Notice letters) as part of the EPA's civil investigative efforts concerning the Site. The EPA is continuing to pursue other prior owners, generators, and transporters/shippers. EPA has issued Special Notice Letters to perform a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). Good faith offers have been received from the PRP Group and Bayer Crop Science to negotiate the RI/FS. Due to past historical operations at the USOR property, Bayer Crop Science has been listed as a PRP and they continue to work and coordinate with the PRP Group for the USOR property. RI/FS negotiations are ongoing between the EPA and the PRP Group.

The EPA and the TCEQ met with Bayer Corporation's and the PRP Group's Environmental Consultants on April 5, 2013, May 1, 2013, and August 15, 2013 to discuss the RI/FS scope of work. The EPA, the TCEQ, and PRP Group continue to have discussions on the draft preliminary conceptual site model for the site.

A Site walk by the EPA, the TCEQ, and PRP Group contractors on May 3, 2013 found that the "No fishing" signs were gone and a fisherman was present and fishing from the bayou. These signs were put up Gulf Coast Waste Disposal Authority (GCWDA) because a large number of people were fishing off of the bridge and the concern was with the water quality in that reach. The missing sign has been reported to GCWDA for them to re-install these signs.

National Priorities Listing (NPL) History

NPL Inclusion Proposal Date: September 16, 2011
NPL Inclusion Final Date: September 18, 2012
HRS Score: 50.00

Site Contacts

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